

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–8 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claim 6 was objected to for erroneously reciting two “meta data analyzing means” and a “user profile.” Claim 6 has been amended to eliminate these extraneous limitations. Accordingly, Applicants believe this objection has been overcome.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent 6,675,385). The present invention addresses problems which occur when attempting to transmit broadcast formatted (i.e. EIT text) meta data (e.g. EPG information) corresponding to a program (e.g. a television show) over a network. (Specification page 3, lines 16-27) The problem occurs because the program must be segmented (or packetized) for transmission over the network, but the meta data (e.g. the EPG information) corresponds to the overall program and must be correlated (e.g. linked) with each segment.

The present invention is directed to “transmitting contents data and corresponding meta data over a network.” (Claims 1, 2, 5, 6) The “contents data and corresponding meta data [are initially stored] in a broadcast format.” (Claim 1) The contents data, “the meta data and segmentation data [are converted] from the broadcast format into the network transmission format.” (Claims 1, 2, 5, 6) In other words, the content and corresponding meta data begin in broadcast format and are converted into a network format for transmission.

Wang also begins with the content and corresponding EPG data in digital broadcast format. Wang converts the EPG data into discrete EPG web pages in HTML format (i.e. a network format) and then converts each discrete web page back into digital broadcast format (MPEG-2) data packets. Wang then broadcasts (using a digital cable line, not a network line) both the (broadcast format) content and the (broadcast format) EPG web pages to the user’s set-top box. (Column 3, line 62 to Column 4, line 23) The set-top box receives and stores each EPG web page.

Hence, Wang broadcasts using a digital cable line (CATV), rather than “transmitting contents data and corresponding meta data over a network” as required in the present invention. This is a significant, practical distinction upon which the present invention is premised. While digital television (broadcast or cable) lines are packet multiplexed, they are not analogous to bi-directional packet switched internet connections.

Moreover, Wang’s conversion of the EPG data into discrete EPG web pages destroys the relationship between the content and the corresponding meta data. This is precisely the problem the present invention is meant to avoid. Rather than maintaining the correspondence between the program and the meta data so the EPG can be assembled on the receiving side, Wang has decided to strip out the EPG data and generate the complete EPG web pages on the transmission

side. Thus, Wang does not teach “combining the corresponding meta data and segmentation information” as recited in the present claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Wang fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

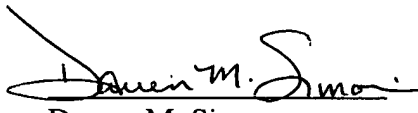
Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Liebenow (U.S. Patent 6,530,083). Liebenow is relied upon solely to meet the “user profile” limitations which have now been canceled from claim 6. However, Liebenow fails to meet the same limitations discussed above in relation to Wang. Accordingly, the combination of Wang and Liebenow fails to obviate the present invention and the rejected claim should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800